

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 09963 170327Z

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ACTION SS-25

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 9963

EXDIS

E.O. 11652 XGDS-4

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, US, UR, OREP (HUMPHREY, HUBERT AND SCOTT, HUGH)

SUBJECT: CODEL HUMPHREY/SCOTT: JEWISH ACTIVISTS AND THE SOVIET  
AUTHORITIES

1. TWO PROMINENT JEWISH ACTIVIST SOURCES PROVIDED EMBOFF WITH SOME ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND DETAILS ON THE REACTION OF SOVIET AUTHORITIES TO THE ACTIVIST MEETING WITH CODEL HUMPHREY/SCOTT. SOMEWHAT TO THE ACTIVISTS' SURPRISE, THE AUTHORITIES WERE MUCH LESS MENACING AND LESS CONCERNED THAN THEY HAD FEARED. NEARLY ALL THE MEMBERS OF THE DELEGATION THAT MET WITH THE CODEL WERE CONSCIOUS OF HAVING BEEN FOLLOWED DURING THE TWO DAYS BEFORE THEIR MEETING. THERE WAS NO HARASSMENT, HOWEVER, EITHER BEFORE OR AFTER THE MEETING. STILL MORE SURPRISING, THE SOURCES REPORTED, WAS THE EXPERIENCE OF TWO JEWISH "REFUSENIKS" FROM MINSK WHO CAME TO MOSCOW AND WERE ALLOWED TO JOIN THE DELEGATION. OUR SOURCES WERE SUPRISED THAT THE AUTHORITIES HAD NOT BOTHERED "AT LEAST" TO PICK THESE PEOPLE UP AND HOLD THEM ON A TECHNICAL-ITY.

2. IN FACT, THE ONLY SERIOUS HARASSMENT OF A WOULD-BE DELEGATION MEMBER WAS THAT OF A MR. ROITBERG, A "REFUSENIK" FROM ODESSA. ROITBERG TRIED FOR TWO DAYS RUNNING TO GET ON A PLANE TO MOSCOW, BUT WAS INTERCEPTED EACH TIME. ON THE THIRD DAY, THE POLICE, HAVING REFUSED HIM PERMISSION TO BOARD, BEAT HIM UP AND SENT HIM HOME BUT DID NOT ARREST HIM.

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3. OUR SOURCES FEEL THAT THE RELATIVELY HUMANE TREATMENT THEY

WERE ACCORDED RESULTED PRIMARILY FROM THE KGB'S REALIZATION THAT ANY PROVOCATION COULD WELL BE USED BY THE SENATORS TO MAKE A "SKANDAL" WHEN THEY RETURNED TO THE UNITED STATES. ONE SOURCE COMMENTED THAT THE KGB COULD HAVE NO ILLUSIONS AS TO THE VIEWS OF SUCH SENATORS AS JAVITS AND RIBICOFF, AND SUGGESTED THAT THE KGB PROBABLY THOUGHT IT WOULD CREATE LESS FUSS TO ALLOW THEM TO MEET THE ACTIVISTS THAN TO ATTEMPT TO PREVENT IT, ESPECIALLY SINCE THE JEWISH ACTIVISTS WOULD NOT BE TELLING THE SENATORS ANYTHING THEY DID NOT ALREADY KNOW.  
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